

1609

Eighty Years' War: Spain and the Dutch Republic sign the Treaty of Antwerp to initiate twelve years of truce.

1609

Philip III of Spain issues the decree of the "Expulsion of the Moriscos".

1682

Robert Cavalier de La Salle discovers the mouth of the Mississippi River, claims it for France and names it Louisiana.

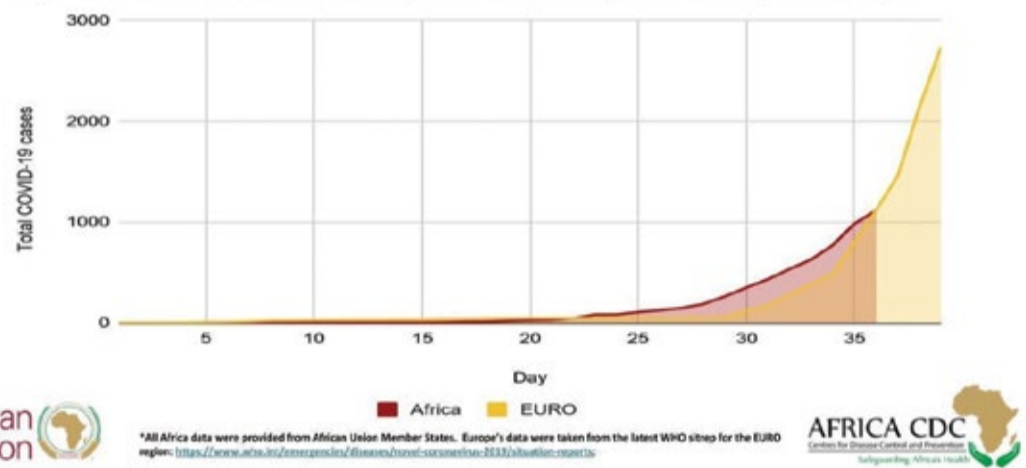


1782

American Revolutionary War: Battle of the Saintes begins.

COVID-19: First 40 days for Africa and Europe*

Comparison of the total number of COVID-19 cases reported over the first 40 days since first case reported in each region



the planet. There isn't much in Africa standing in the way of COVID-19. It is one of the fastest-moving and hardest-hitting pandemics in human history. This is a looming threat to the over 1.2 billion people on the continent of Africa. The high-income countries that bear much of the healthcare costs in Africa are confronted with the COVID-19 fight themselves. To be honest, unless we obtain more support, we may never know the true impact of COVID-19. Liberia's healthcare system was able to identify these first two cases and track down their contacts – as a top-line system should. Many other African countries are also ahead of the curve, thanks to our

experiences with Ebola. But once the cases escalate, even the best of systems will be overwhelmed. And this pandemic will never end if we cannot root out all of the infections it causes, even in the poorest of countries. As we see with other infectious diseases like tuberculosis, once they find a home in the slums and other impoverished places around the world, infections will always escape out and threaten the wealthier regions. The Ebola epidemic that raged through West Africa was an existential threat to Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. A challenge to governments around the world, it severely threatened international public health systems in ways

they have never been challenged before. And yet, even as the first few months of COVID-19 has hit harder than Ebola, there is one lesson learned that many of us will never forget. We are all on this planet together. You may not be able to wall off diseases like COVID-19 and Ebola, but you also cannot wall off the common bonds of humanity that all of us share. If we are to get through this pandemic – and we will, because humans are a stubborn species – we will get through it together, by providing support to the more impoverished parts of the world. This chapter of our history does not have to end so darkly.

change the world



The Gifted Education Program in Singapore is a stellar case study. The model is based on a combination of curriculum enrichment, the advancement of essential skills, field trips, and specialized out-of-school learning experiences in partnership with tertiary institutions.

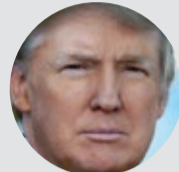
in higher grade levels). Grouping gifted students together also creates a positive learning experience, as it offers the challenges and complexity needed to grow, in addition to improving students' social and emotional well-being. Furthermore, gifted students can attend out-of-school programs and specialized classes in specific subject areas in order to advance their learning. Lastly, supporting parents through counselling and parenting programs can empower them to make the best choices for their gifted children. The Gifted Education Program in Singapore is a stellar case study. The model is based on a combination of curriculum enrichment, the advancement of

essential skills, field trips, and specialized out-of-school learning experiences in partnership with tertiary institutions. For example, the Moot Parliament Program is a six-month mentorship project designed for secondary school students with the aim of educating them about democracy. The Innovation Program is another signature Singaporean project that focuses on encouraging gifted students to solve real-life problems. Students are briefed about a particular challenge and then innovation mentors from partnering tertiary institutions share their expertise on how to stimulate creative thinking, assess the viability of ideas, and propose improvements to proposals and prototypes. This all culminates in the Young Innovators' Fair, where projects are presented by students and judged by a panel. Other programs on offer focus on developing knowledge and skills in various domains, such as the creative arts, science, mathematics, humanities, and social sciences. Leonardo once said: "The artist sees what others only catch a glimpse of." Gifted children have the opportunity to make the world a better place, but that can only be made possible if we invest in their education and learning experiences as early as possible.



TOP
4
TWEETS

01



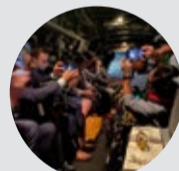
Republicans should fight very hard when it comes to state wide mail-in voting. Democrats are clamoring for it. Tremendous potential for voter fraud, and for whatever reason, doesn't work out well for Republicans. @foxandfriends @realDonaldTrump

02



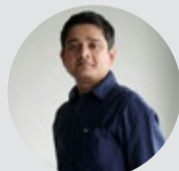
A fortnight back Kerala had the dubious distinction of being the state with highest number of active Covid cases. Now it has moved to the 8th rank - a testimonial to Kerala's medical and social strategy of containment and vibrant public health system. @drthomasisaac

03



There's a big debate going on among folks about whether cable should be airing Trump briefings. Okay. But if you're running the beginning of the briefing, why cut away from Pence and the actual health officials? @maggieNYT

04



Big order by the Supreme Court: All #COVID19 patients to be tested free of cost. SC says all Govt labs & accredited private ones must carry out all tests relating to #COVID19 for everyone without a penny. Issue of reimbursement will be dealt with at a later stage. @utkarsh_aanand

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

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Since its establishment as a world body more than 70 years ago, the United Nations, has celebrated April 05 as an International Day of Conscience (IDC) for the first time in its history. It is now internationally declared that April 05 will be celebrated every year as IDC. The reason for this big and historical day was the proposal put forward by His Royal Highness Prime Minister Khalifa bin Salman Al Khalifa to consider conscience of humans in decisions making and conflict resolutions for the betterment of humanity. The initiative was unanimously adopted by the United Nations last year.

The occasion paved the way for the Premier to put his permanent signature at the world body, the first Arab leader to do so. Thereafter every year when April 05, is celebrated the world over, the Premier's achievement, commitment, lifelong dedication and contributions to the world community will be addressed. Indeed, it is history in the making! Speaking on the occasion, the Premier said "only a reassured and truthful conscience can uphold righteousness and inspire humanity in dealing with the crisis of poverty and epidemics, as well as in attaining sustainable peace".

The world in general and the Middle East in particular has and continue to witness conflicts of various sorts ranging from power politics to sectarianism to tribal confrontations, spiced up by state and non-state actors. The results of which have resulted in the deaths and displacement of hundreds, if not millions, of innocent people and destruction of the infrastructure. This devastation continues to date with no solution on the horizon.

The Arab League threw its weight behind the Premier's initiative and called on strengthening the IDC qualities and use to solve conflicts and integrate them in international systems and relations among countries.

A new approach to deal with such continuous challenges was long overdue. Political parties of various stripes and powerful countries with stakes in the conflicts more often than not end up without a solution. The Premier's initiative that takes into consideration the conscience of humans, focusing on avoiding hatred and violence and promoting global peace, stability, security, respect for human dignity, cooperation, justice and equality seem to be the right medicine for the disease. The promotion of these qualities in solving conflicts remains at the centre of the

IDC. The IDC initiative is also a reflection of Bahrain's relentless efforts towards achieving global peace and stability.

The IDC qualities are ingrained in Bahrain society, where unity in diversity is observed and reflected in the social cohesion that existed in the Kingdom. The Premier said that "our initiative in calling for the observance of an IDC stems from the values, principles, civilization, historical heritage of the Kingdom of Bahrain which combines culture, heritage and principles of true Islamic religion". That is why Bahrain is best known for being a place of harmony, coexistence and tolerance in a region dominated by hatred and conflicts, where violence has shaped political landscapes of several countries. Bahrain is now trying to promote its qualities in an effort to solve the multifaceted challenges the world is facing. Solving conflicts that are erupting in different parts of the globe, helping fast track the progress in achieving sustainable development and containing the Covid 19 pandemic to reduce its effect on human lives and world economy require cooperation of countries concerned.

The Arab League threw its weight behind the Premier's initiative and called on strengthening the IDC qualities and use to solve conflicts and integrate them in international systems and relations among countries. Hopefully the Arab League will urge the conflict-ridden member states to embrace the Bahrain initiative to solve their increasing conflict of interests and request them to focus on their similarities rather than differences when they celebrate IDC.

The IDC is a wakeup call for the world community. It urges us to use our God-given human conscience in cooperating and understanding common challenges that affect us all. By so doing, we can share resources, respect each other and develop together, for the betterment of humanity.